



**HAL**  
open science

## Obituary

Hans-Jochem Kolb

► **To cite this version:**

Hans-Jochem Kolb. Obituary. *Annals of Hematology*, 2010, 89 (11), pp.1071-1071. 10.1007/s00277-010-0963-8 . hal-00567350

**HAL Id: hal-00567350**

**<https://hal.science/hal-00567350>**

Submitted on 21 Feb 2011

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Editorial Manager(tm) for Annals of Hematology  
Manuscript Draft

Manuscript Number: AOHE-D-10-00180

Title: *Obituary*

Article Type: Original Article

Keywords: not available

Corresponding Author: Mr. Carsten Brall,

Corresponding Author's Institution:

First Author: Carsten Brall

Order of Authors: Carsten Brall

Abstract: not available

## In memoriam Stefan Thierfelder

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 On February 28, 2010, Stefan Thierfelder passed away after a long debilitating disease at the  
6 age of 76 years. He was the head of the Institute of Immunology at the Helmholtz Zentrum  
7 München, a scientist and pioneer in the field of stem cell transplantation and antibody  
8 therapy.  
9  
10

11  
12  
13 The scientific track of Stefan Thierfelder started in Paris at the *Centre de Recherches sur les*  
14 *Maladies du Sang* under the guidance of Jean Dausset who became Nobel laureate for his  
15 work on HLA. HLA-antigen disparity was found to be one of the causes of transfusion  
16 reactions, and Stefan Thierfelder was appointed to the position of a senior scientist at the  
17 Gesellschaft für Strahlenforschung (GSF, today's Helmholtz Zentrum Muenchen) in 1965 for  
18 the study of platelet antibodies. However, in the scientific context of radiation research at the  
19 GSF he devoted more and more time in the investigation of stem cell transplantation and the  
20 use of anti-lymphocyte antibodies for prevention of rejection and graft-versus-host disease.  
21 During his time as head of the division of Immunology significant progress was achieved in  
22 immunogenetics with the definition of HLA-class II antigens, in experimental stem cell  
23 transplantation, and in immune phenotyping of leukaemia. Depletion of T cells using  
24 specifically absorbed antithymocyte globulin and purging autologous marrow of residual  
25 leukaemia cells using antiglobulin against c-ALL antigen (CD10) were pioneered by him. He  
26 actively pursued translational programs that were facilitated by the Haematologicum built on  
27 the Campus Großhadern of the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich close to the  
28 University Hospital. There not only the first bone marrow transplantation in a child with  
29 severe aplastic anaemia was performed successfully, but also new methods as T cell depletion  
30 and antibody purging could be introduced into the clinic. The same absorbed antiglobulins  
31 were helpful to characterize acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Polyclonal sera were substituted  
32 by monoclonal antibodies; recently the first bispecific antibody was licensed that was  
33 developed by his collaborators. Symposia on Immunobiology in 1977 and 1980 as well as the  
34 Congress of the International Society for Experimental Hematology (ISEH) 1981 in Munich  
35 reflected his international reputation.  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

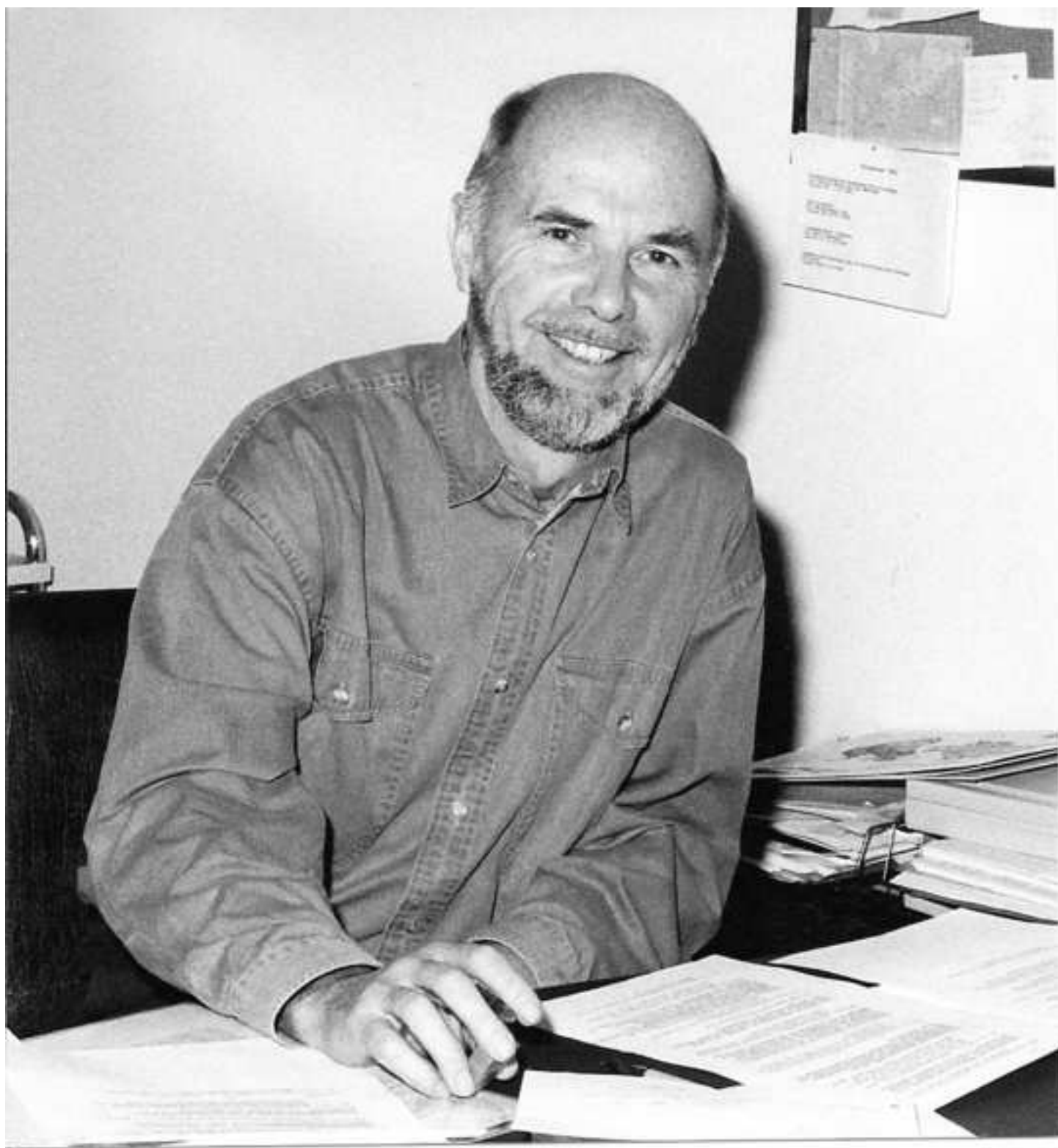
55 Stefan Thierfelder was a well educated partner for discussions not only in science, but also in  
56 literature, arts, social and political issues. He was open minded and critical at the same time.  
57 As leader of a team he cultivated the dialogue at any time and with everyone seriously  
58 concerned. His originality and open mind combined with critical judgement provided a  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

creative atmosphere supporting productivity and devotion of the members of the group. We gratefully acknowledge his support and remember him.

Hans-Jochem Kolb

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

Figure  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)



**\*Conflict of interest**

**[Click here to download Conflict of interest: None.doc](#)**